

# Looking Forward

By preserving unimpaired Yellowstone's natural and cultural resources and values for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations, we hope to be a model and inspiration for national parks throughout the world. Looking forward, we also hope to serve as a model by focusing on internal management issues.

Yellowstone's experiences with the proposals outlined in this document—successes and failures alike—will help itself and perhaps other parks to improve internal efficiencies.

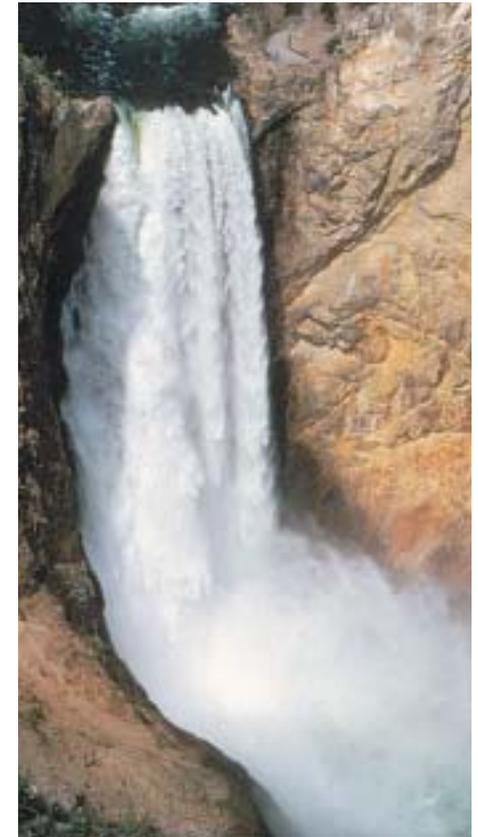
One of the primary goals of this plan is to contribute to a financial picture of the National Park Service as a whole. As such, the information gathered and presented here is valuable not just for Yellowstone, but for the National Park Service, allowing comparison across parks.

This process has been good for Yellowstone in several ways. For example, by identifying the best technology available to move toward energy self-sufficiency, we will reduce costs while making our infrastructure more environmentally sound, and promote national goals of energy independence while expanding our existing partnerships with a mutual goal of innovation. Providing an open account of how our existing funding is allocated has allowed us to identify areas in which we can improve our own internal operations and areas in which we will need further assistance to both achieve what is legally required of us and aim

even higher. Finally, producing this document has required us to consolidate a vast amount of information and analyses concerning the current state of our programs, and to examine those analyses within the context of our historical and current funding. Having that information available has facilitated the prioritization process that led to our five-year goals, which will ultimately help us concentrate our efforts and resources in areas where they are most needed.

Recognizing that we do not have all the answers, we at Yellowstone also hope to facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learned across parks. Communication with other parks, agencies, and private sector partners will encourage stronger management practices. We also seek opportunities to collaborate with other parks to ensure that our staff learn from the expertise of their counterparts throughout the NPS.

Yellowstone has a longstanding history as a leader in the National Park Service. However, in order to continue contributing to the goal of serving as a “model and inspiration,” we must find new and improved ways of managing the park's resources while providing for visitor experience and enjoyment. We hope to use this business plan as a communication tool to facilitate better teamwork—within our own staff, across parks, across agencies, and with the many constituents and individuals who care about and for these very special places that comprise the National Park System.



*Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River.*

# Additional Information

The following documents are available in html or pdf format on the park's web site, [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell):

- Winter Use Plans and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway (2003)
- The Yellowstone National Park Strategic Management Plan (2000)
- Long Range Interpretive Plan (2000)
- The State of the Park (1999)
- Winter Visitor Use Management Assessment (1999)

Further information is available at the following web sites:

- The Yellowstone Association, [www.yellowstoneassociation.org](http://www.yellowstoneassociation.org)
- The Yellowstone Park Foundation, [www.ypf.org](http://www.ypf.org)
- The Yellowstone National Art Trust, [www.ynat.org](http://www.ynat.org)



*For many visitors, seeing a grizzly bear in the wild is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.*

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*NPS policy calls for restoring native species. Yellowstone reintroduced gray wolves in 1995.*

# Notes



